

BY J. E. NEWELL.

The Democratic papers have already opened an abusive campaign on Judge Murphy and H. F. Bartice.

It is a sort of fight which will not hurt either of these gentlemen in the slightest.

The APPEAL merely points to one significant fact. Judge Murphy and Judge Sewell were once nominated in the same district and where both gentlemen were well known, Murphy was elected by a large majority.

We do not say this in disparagement of Mr. Sewell, he stands high in his profession as far as the APPEAL has ever heard, but the fact that in the District where these candidates lived, Murphy was the choice of the people is a circumstance of great significance and the Democratic press will find hard work explaining it away.

#### SILVER IN CHINA.

The fine silver bars turned out from the Carson and San Francisco Mints are in every instance shipped to China. They are none of them less than 997 in fineness, while those from the Carson Mint range from 998½ to 999½. It has long been a matter of speculation with the Mint people, why the Chinese require that the bars should be of such greater fineness than is required for coinage, or for the ordinary purposes for which the metal is used. A gentleman who has lived in the Celestial Empire for upwards of thirty years, and who is familiar with the currency system of that Nation, furnishes the APPEAL the following explanation:

The demand for such exceedingly fine silver arises from the fact that "Sycee," which is nearly pure silver, is the legal tender in which all, or nearly all, official salaries and custom dues are paid. The name "Sai S. L. Nyan" indicates that the silver is as fine as can be made. When coin is paid into the Imperial Treasury, it is estimated according to the pure silver it contains, by weight, and not by count, as is the custom in other countries. If the fine bars turned out by the U. S. Mints are accepted according to their stamped fineness and weight by the Chinese as correct, they become simply large coins, easily estimated, and are so turned into the Imperial coffers. They also pass current among the Commercial people in the place of bushels and bags of dollars. If these laws could be made to suit the Chinese standard by the United States Mints, of weights, say respectively: Five, ten, twenty, fifty and one hundred "taels," or Chinese ounces, and each properly stamped it would help materially towards disposing of our surplus silver to the Chinese. It would be far preferable to the discontinued practice of the coinage of trade dollars for the Chinese market. This is the opinion of our informant and he is doubtless correct. The value of the trade dollar is estimated in China, by the amount of pure silver it contains, and is in no wise increased by the shape, or the Mint inscriptions upon its sides. Small oblong bars of lesser weights, stamped as the larger ones now are would be more acceptable to our Mongolian customers, and could be turned out at an expense, trifling when compared with that of the coinage of trade dollars. This is a matter worthy the consideration of the silver producers of the Pacific Coast, who are directly interested in encouraging the greatest possible facilities for the sale of their product. The issuance of small bars of specified weights and fineness would, it is true, entail a trifling additional cost in turning them out. The advantages to be gained, however, would more than justify the Government in ordering their issuance without increasing the present charges to depositors.

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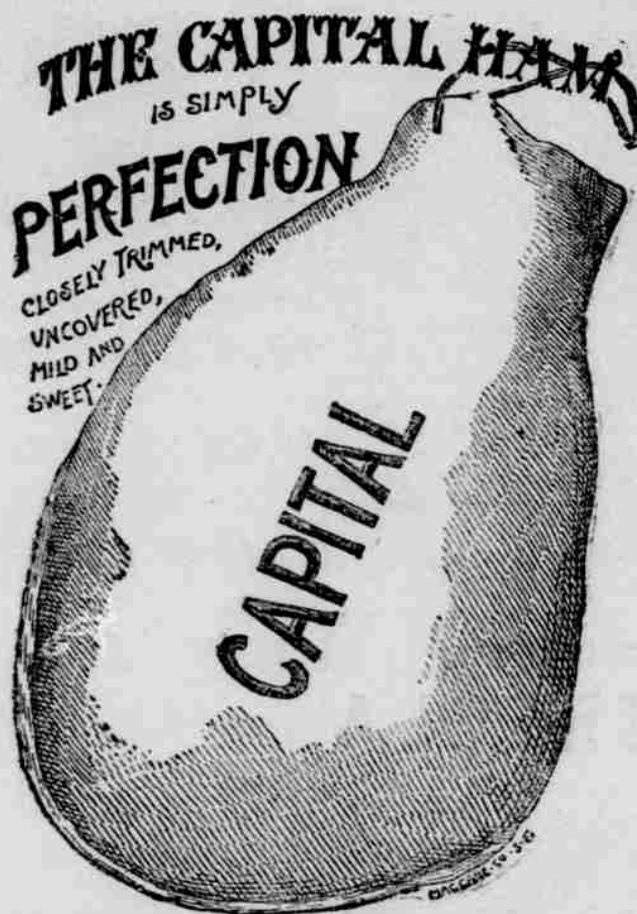
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